



The

GARzette



The Official Newsletter of the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society

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www.GARS.org

**Don't forget to support our
advertisers at the back of the
GARzette.**



**GARS January Exhibition of the
Technical aspects of Amateur Radio
Held at the Gwinnett County Fairgrounds**

**GARS Meeting: SOTA (Summits on the Air) - Kevin Igarashi-Ball W4KIB
Tuesday May 14, 2024 at 7:00 PM**



President's Message

From the President...

Spring has kicked into high gear and GARS is busy right along with it. We started the month with the return of the **Georgia QSO Party** as an operating event for GARS. While we may have only been on the air for a few hours, we had a ton of fun and turned it into an all day event at



[SEE ADDITIONAL PICTURES OF THE QSO PARTY IN ANOTHER SECTION OF THIS ISSUE ED.]

Little Mulberry Park with Gwinnett ARES doing a morning deployment day and bringing the refreshed trailer out. Thanks **Dallas N4DDM** for helping to organize the party and we are already looking forward to more events later in the year.

The Snellville repeater shack also got a good cleaning and organizing over two different work parties. [see pictures in another section of this issue ed.] Volunteers reorganized an entire rack containing the 255 and 525 VHF and UHF repeaters, removing several pieces of equipment to either bring back to storage or to recycling, and updated the networking gear in prep for getting Echolink working again. Kevin Scott K4GTR did two tower climbs to install a new link antenna and remove some unneeded equipment from the tower.

I would like to thank the follow volunteers for their help

- David KA4KKF
- Neil WD4NET

- Glen W3WWT
- Lynn W4SHT
- Larry AB4NX
- Mark KN2TOD
- Ernie WB4LVA from Alford Memorial
- Kevin K4GTR
- Joe AD4PZ
- Earl AF4FG

The end of April saw the introduction of a new net – Fridays on 440. It is casual topic / ragchew net each Friday night at 20:30 local time and spearheaded by our VP Alex AK4AM. It's a great place to usher the weekend in, get to know your fellow hams, for new hams to ask questions, and warm up some of those circuits on our Norcross UHF repeater (442.100, positive offset, PL 100).

Coming up:

At the end of the month, GARS will be helping once again with the **Dacula Memorial Day Parade**. GARS helps with lining up the parade participants and getting them on and off the route in an organized fashion. You only need an HT and a safety vest to participate and I hope to see you there on May 27th. You can sign up via the [signup sheet](#) on the [website](#).

Field Day is just around the corner in June and we are still looking for three to four band captains and a GOTA station. We also need to operators and loggers to help man the stations through out the event as well as head count for the Saturday night dinner. For more information about Field Day, directions to the park, and to sign up, please visit the [Field Day page](#) on the website. If you would be interested helping in a greater capacity (such as co-chairing Field Day), please contact myself or David Adcock KA4KKF.

73,

Kevin W4KIB
Club President

GARS Repeaters and Other Communications

<u>2 Meter Repeaters</u> 147.075(+) MHz Tone 82.5 147.255(+) MHz Tone 107.2 <u>1.25 Meter Repeater</u> 224.580(-) MHz Tone 100.0, 1.6 MHz Offset <u>70 Cm Repeaters</u> 444.525(+) MHz Tone 82.5 442.100(+) MHz Tone 100 442.325(+) MHz Tone 100	<u>6 Meter Repeater</u> 53.110 (-1 MHz) No Tone (Offline for Maintenance) Other Resources: <u>APRS</u> 144.390 -- 1200 Baud W4GR <u>D-STAR (WD4STR)</u> 145.060 + (1.4 MHz) 440.550 + (5 MHz)	6M Currently down 147.075 Operational in Snellville 147.255 Operational in Snellville 224.580 Operational in Grayson 442.100 Operational at Goshen Springs Rd, Norcross 442.325 Operational in Buford 444.525 Operational in Snellville Link remote receivers being added
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Notable Web Links

Ham Radio Glossary: <https://noji.com/hamradio/glossary.php> a very comprehensive listing provided by Noji Ratzlaff KNØJI. On his site there is also a lot of information about getting started in ham radio.

Need Help – Let GARS Elmers answer your questions

Send an email to elmers@gars.org with the subject listing the area (like Antennas, Repeaters, Digital, DMR etc.) of your query to get to GARS Elmer volunteers.

About the GARzette

The *GARzette* is the official monthly newsletter of the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society, serving its members and other persons interested in the advancement of the Amateur Radio art.

Original articles, art, and photos are invited and encouraged. Previously copyrighted submissions cannot be accepted for reprinting unless permission from the appropriate publisher is provided in writing along with the information being submitted. If reprints are from publications allowing their unrestricted use, please include a copy of the printed permission contained in the publication.

If possible, bring your articles to the monthly meeting in Microsoft Word or rich text (.rtf) or text or HTML format or by e-mail to editor@gars.org. Artwork can be accepted in most any graphics format and can be submitted via e-mail to the same address. Alternate means of submittal can be arranged when necessary.

In keeping with the Amateur Radio spirit, permission is hereby granted for the reproduction of The *GARzette* articles by other Amateur Radio club newsletters provided that proper credit is given to the individual author and *The GARzette*.

The GARzette is published each month with the assistance of Karen KI4HPP and Kyle W4KDA who print copies for distribution at meetings, etc. and Dave Bruse, W4DTR, who distributes the newsletter electronically.

Deadline for submissions is the 28th of each month for inclusion in the following month's issue.

For additional information view our Website at: <http://www.gars.org> [PS— Articles to publish in the *GARzette*, either written by GARS members or published elsewhere, are always welcome. —Ed.]

Newsletter Email: editor@gars.org Editor: Bob Hoffmann, K4CQO

GARS Personalized Mugs for sale – Bits Print and Press



**Jolie
Dellaneve-
Brown,
KO4AHI**



<mailto:bitsprintandpress@gmail.com>

GARS Meetings & Workshops

GARS Meetings and Workshops are held in-person at the EAA 690 Hangar, 690 Airport Rd, Lawrenceville, GA 30046.

Meetings and Workshops are OPEN to all, feel free to share your invite with others.

GARS Meetings Schedule (second Tuesday @ 7:00 PM): (these are the presentations)

- May 14 - SOTA (Summits on the Air) - Kevin Igarashi-Ball W4KIB
- June 11 - Ice Cream Social and Field Day Preparations at Harbins Park in Dacula (our Field Day site)
- July 16 - Simple Get on the Air Antennas for HF, VHF, and UHF – Dallas N4DDM
- August 13 – What can I do with DMR – Bob Hoffmann K4CQO

Workshop Schedule (third Tuesday @ 7:00 PM): (these are the Hands-on Workshops)

- May 21 - SOTA (Summits on the Air) - Kevin Igarashi-Ball W4KIB
- June 18 - Preps for Field Day, Installing and configuring N3FJP logging software
- July 16 - Get on the Air Antennas for HF, VHF, and UHF - Dallas Mellichamp N4DDM
- August 20 – What can I do with DMR – Bob Hoffmann K4CQO

GARS Meeting – May 12, 2024 SOTA (Summits on the Air)

Kevin Igarashi-Ball W4KIB will be presenting on Summits on the Air (SOTA). SOTA encourages amateur radio operators to get out and play radio in a portable setting. Similar to Parks on the Air (POTA), SOTA is focused on getting to specific summits and making contacts. While we have multiple summits within an hour or two drive from Gwinnett, we have one summit right in our backyard. Kevin will talk about some of the rules and procedures of the program, key tools for finding summits and getting yourself spotted, mixing POTA and SOTA together, and what equipment you might need for your activation. Finally, we cap the presentation off with a short list of easy activate summits to get your started on your SOTA journey.

GARS Workshop – May 19, 2024

The workshop will be a follow-up to the presentation done the previous week.

Feel free to bring any ham related questions you have including equipment setup and usage. We typically have 5 or more Elmers at each Workshop.

GARS would like to thank Tom Crowley (KT4XN), for his STEM and Ham Radio presentation.



GARS is expressing deep sorry for the loss of one of our members – Bill Grimes WG9NUW (SK). Bill was an active member of GARS serving for many years as a net control operator.





GARS Happenings

20 Years ago in the May 2004 GARzette:

- The GARS newsletter (GARzette) is not available for May 2004. However, all available GARzettes from 1994 can be found and browsed for your enjoyment from the GARS website.

You can always browse the GARzette archive at <http://www.gars.org/newsletters>. 73, Bob, K4CQO, GARzette Editor

GARS
GARzette

Health and Wellbeing – Sandy Jackson, KJ4DRO

Look for this resource on [Email \(https://gars.org/contact/\)](https://gars.org/contact/) and use it as a means to convey information about a GARS family member or Silent Key notification.

Net Managers Corner

Monday Night 2 Meter “Want, Swap, Sell, and Information Net”

GARS NEEDS MEMBERS TO SERVE AS NET CONTROL STATIONS!

GARS is a great Amateur Radio service club with the membership and awards to prove it. Our club is very busy and active, and we use the Monday night net to get timely information out to our members. Weekly participation is needed to make our net function well. There is only a small group of very dedicated people who make the net happen each week, and we need more members to volunteer to serve as Net Control Stations (NCS) on a rotating basis.

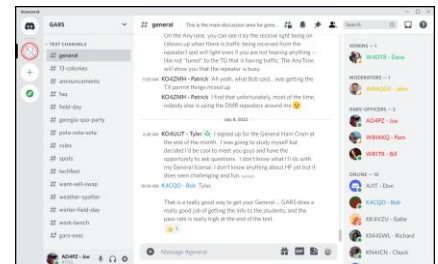
Out of almost 300 members, there are only five operators who serve as the NCS for the GARS net every Monday night. In no particular order, they are:

Ray – N4GYN David – KA4KKF Kevin – W4KIB Bill - WD4AMC Chuck – KK4TKJ

As GARS Net Manager (Chuck KK4TKJ), I would like to have more volunteers to fill NCS positions. I do plan and post the schedule months in advance. Any conditions will be accommodated that you as a rotating NCS need to place on the scheduling of your duties. If your plans change, I can make adjustments for the schedule to work, and I will make those changes happen as soon as I am notified of a problem. As Net Manager, I also send out reminders each week to let the NCS scheduled know he or she is NCS for the next Monday night net. In short, serving as a rotating NCS is a small duty but a great contribution to the club. The “Want, Swap, Sell Information Net” begins promptly at 19:30 every Monday night and runs about 30 minutes. As a scheduled NCS, you will request the assistance of a volunteer alternate NCS each time you have Net Control. Your simple duties will be to tune in to the GARS repeater, read the script, take a few notes and forward the information to me for record keeping.

Please lend a hand and contact (Chuck) via [Email \(https://gars.org/contact/\)](https://gars.org/contact/) to help support the effort that makes GARS the great club that it is. See you on the Nets!

Don't forget about our Discord utility for GARS announcements, news, activity spotting and more. See <http://www.gars.org> top of the home page. This is a sample of Discord. →





HAMS HELPING HAMS

Brian Page, N4TRB and I went over to help a fellow ham and fellow GARS Club member, Vinnie, KA4WAY with some tower challenge. Vinnie has been working on getting his health to a new and better place but he still reached out to Brian and I, and we were happy to help.

The task was not a difficult one, as we were just replacing his rotator motor atop his telescoping / tilt over tower. And since it was the same model being replaced, we didn't even have to replace or re-wire the rotor cable. The two tower mounted winches, made it super easy for this repair operation. One wench to collapse the tower sections, and the other one to tilt the tower to the ground, giving us eyeball access to the rotor. After the replacement, we took the opportunity to 'snug' up other area hardware, rotate the rotor to the calibrated direction, and raise the tower back into place.

I don't think it took Brian and I more than an hour or so of our time to do all this, but we helped another Ham get back on the air.

-- by Joe Biddle, AD4PZ



McConnel Middle KD4TGR goes QRT



After an amazing ten-year run, the radio club at McConnell Middle School went QRT on April 24th. In that time there were many notable accomplishments including numerous Technician licenses earned, a few Generals and an Extra, a contact with the International Space Station (ISS) during the COVID shutdown, and many School Club Roundups entered. Not least of all was close to 100 “Blinky” kits built.

Our last activity for the year was our annual McConnell Field Day where we set up a portable operation in the upper parking lot at the school. All the club members and their parents were invited. We contacted many different states on HF, but no countries this time.

This club couldn’t have flourished without some key volunteers. Jean Delashmit and Dr. James Reeves, both science teachers at McConnell, before their respective retirements, were instrumental in getting the club going. Chuck McCord, trustee of the KD4TGR “Tiger” callsign. Earl Whatley for stepping in where needed for special projects. And the GARS VE team for scheduling annual small group test sessions at the school. The biggest thank-you is reserved for Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society for their financial support over the years.

The old saying goes: “when one door closes, another one opens.” Stay tuned because another school club will be starting at the beginning of the next school year. The Lilburn Elementary School Radio Club will be having monthly meetings. Kevin Igarashi-Ball will be the GARS volunteer. Building modifications are taking place as we speak for a roof-top end-fed antenna and duct run down to the classroom. Go Mustangs.

Ralph Pickwick KJ4CNC, Education Chairman

Georgia QSO & ARES



GARS and Gwinnett ARES did a combined Georgia QSO Party and ARES Deployment Day event at Little Mulberry Park on April 13th. The weather was perfect for a day out in the park.

Gwinnett ARES set up their recently renovated communications trailer in the overflow parking lot along with two pop-up tents. Earl AF4FG set up HF operations from the bed of his pickup. Mark N7RGB set up VHF/UHF/HF operations from his pop-up tent and demonstrated operating FT-8 using his QRP rig. Larry AB4NX and Kevin W4KIB set up a pop-up tent demonstrating AREDN and a similar setup to what was recently deployed at the Georgia Death Race.

We were limited to two stations for the GA QSO Party, so we set up as Multi-Operator - Two Transmitters. Operations were straightforward; two HF Phone stations on two picnic tables using two End Feed antennas. 40 meters was our money band. We had at least 10 GARS members present and 3-4 visitors whom we invited to join us and come to our meetings.

The Station Captains were Kevin W4KIB and Dallas N4DDM. Both rigs were IC-7300s and it became apparent that Band Pass Filters had to be used.

We operated for 2 hours and 30 minutes and made 155 QSOs.

QSOs Per Band:	QSOs per Operator:	Log Totals Submitted:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 40m = 103 20m = 48 15m = 4 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Randy KN4DY = 69 QSOs Alex AK4AM = 40 QSOs Drew KQ4NUQ = 20 QSOs Kevin W4KIB = 17 QSOs Dallas N4DDM = 9 QSOs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total Contacts: 155 Total QSO Points: 155 Total Multipliers: 29 Total Score: 4,995

I want to thank all of those who came out and had fun.

73 Dallas N4DDM

GA QSO Party Chair

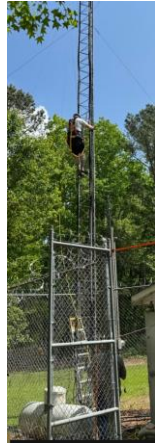
GARS Event Pictures

GA QSO





GARS Repeater work at Snellville



Girl Scout Event



The Original Ten-Tec Omni Transceivers

Vintage Amateur Radio

de Bill Shadid, W9MXQ



In an earlier article, I discussed the Ten-Tec Corsair and later analog Omni Series. Those included the Corsair, Corsair II, the Omni V, the Omni VI, and the Omni VI Plus radios marketed from about 1982 until 2002. After that, and to this day, Ten-Tec produces the well-respected Omni VII and the very latest Omni VII Plus¹.

Back at a time when the Japanese were producing hybrid radios, American companies, such as Ten-Tec, Drake, Swan, and Heathkit, were producing good quality all solid-state transceivers². The new offering from Ten-Tec in 1978 was the first radio in the long running Omni series – the Omni A 160-10-meter solid state HF Transceiver. These were competitive radios – but perhaps lacked in the physical charm exuded by the more “stereo equipment” looks of the popular Kenwood and Yaesu hybrid

Transceivers. These included the Kenwood TS-820S and the Yaesu FT-101E. Here is the model 545 Omni A – as introduced in 1978:



Ten-Tec Omni A HF Transceiver – Model 545

Ten-Tec Wiki Website

The Omni A (the “A” was for “Analog Readout” and was not a reference to this being the first of its kind) was marketed in parallel with the digital frequency readout Omni D HF Transceiver. (A picture of the Omni D appears further along in the article.) The Ten-Tec model numbers for the two radios was different – the Analog Readout Omni A was the model 545 and the Digital Readout Omni D was the model 546.

The Omni A (and Omni D) covered the 160 to 10-meter bands in 500 kHz segments. Four of those segments covered the 10-meter band. There was no transmit coverage of the WARC bands which came along a bit later.

Power input for the Omni A and D was 200 watts with an output on SSB and CW of 85-100 watts, depending on band³.

The Omni A and D were designed with solid-state final amplifiers that required no tuning other than to set frequency of the VFO and peak the receiver sensitivity with the DRIVE control. Early solid-state radios did not yet have broadband front ends and/or low-level driver circuitry and need to be tuned to maximum receive signal to allow for full power transmit and maximum sensitivity.

Below see the Omni D that was merely an Omni A with a digital readout.



Ten-Tec Omni D HF Transceiver – Model 546

RigPix Photo

In comparing these two otherwise identical radios we can see the only difference in the two – aside from the readout. The Omni D has no access to a typical 100 kHz calibrator to use in correcting linearity errors in the mechanical readout used on the Omni A. On the Omni A, note the push-button to the right of the main tuning knob – and that it is absent from the digital readout Omni D, above.

The Omni A and D had an excellent SSB Crystal filter but did not allow for additional CW bandwidth crystal filters. Instead, it has a three-position audio filter system. These can be seen on the SELECTIVITY control that allowed for audio filters 1, 2, and 3 plus a “SB” position for the single sideband crystal filter. These radios had no provision for general coverage or AM (other than to zero beat the carrier in SSB to tune an AM signal). Like most Ten-Tec radios, past and present, these Omni models had excellent QSK available for CW.

The original Omni A and D transceivers could receive on 10 MHz for WWV reception. None of the WARC bands were accommodated as they were not yet available to hams. There was an AUX bandswitch position that was essentially able to be used for any additional coverage within the range of the radio.

An exceptionally good friend of mine in my Illinois days had an original version Omni D⁴. On many occasions I would assist in maintenance of this radio when any issue occurred over the many years my elderly friend owned this fine radio. As far as I know it continues to operate today. It was paired at the time with a Heathkit SB-220 Linear Amplifier and a home brew Quad antenna at about 40 feet – an installation one had to see to be believed!!

About two years after the introduction of the Omni A and Omni D, Ten-Tec did an update of this radio model and introduced the Omni A, Series B, and the Omni D, Series B. Major changes included the addition of a board holding two additional crystal filters – used for optional crystal filters for CW. Also, the rather useless SQUELCH control on the original Omni was replaced by NOTCH filter control – a very handy accessory. The Series B radios had an option to add transmit capability to the 10 MHz (30-meter) band as well as transceive capability on the 24 MHz (12-meter) band.

Here is a picture of the Omni A, Series B, showing a clear view of the analog readout. As explained above on the original Omni A, see the calibrator (CAL) button at the right of the main tuning knob.



Ten-Tec Omni A HF Transceiver – Model 545B

RigPix Photo

The only inconvenience I have noted in this model is the filter switching. It did not allow for separate switching of the audio and crystal filters. One could switch the appropriate (in Ten-Tec's decision) audio filter to complement the closest crystal filter. This issue would have to wait for the final version of the radio for a final, and proper, correction.

The final version of this original Omni series transceiver was the Omni C. The nomenclature changed a bit as the analog version was dropped so the old term "Omni D" seemed to no longer fit. In the original model lineup this new radio would have been called the Omni D, Series C – but it was just shortened to Omni C.

With the Omni C, the band availability was complete with the 30, 17, and 12-meter bands being included and working – and properly marked on the bandswitch. The biggest ergonomic improvement was the convenience of the separate switching of the crystal and audio filters. Now the flexibility of the two kinds of filtering were separately selectable for maximum flexibility.



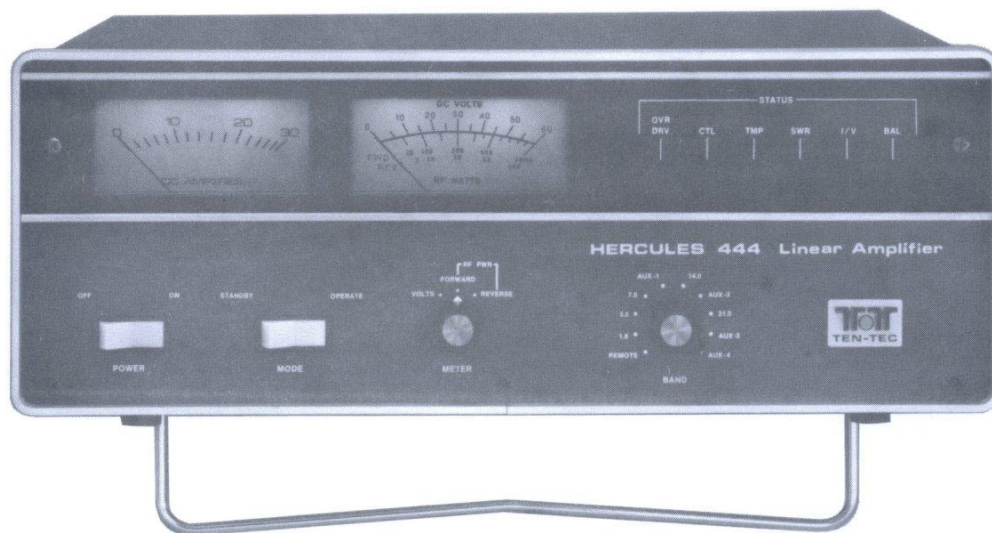
Ten-Tec Omni C HF Transceiver – Model 546C

RigPix Photo

Although my own experience with this radio was tied to the original Omni D (Model 546) owned by my friend, I can say that these radios were very capable with good filtering and a very pleasing audio sound. This has always been typical of Ten-Tec radios. Although my friend never used it on CW, I ran

the rig many times on that mode. As you have perhaps often heard, Ten-Tec was and is a master at providing superior QSK CW performance. Not so well known was the fine SSB performance these radios exhibited. In my humble opinion, SSB performance with Ten-Tec radios seems to be a closely guarded secret!

All the Omni, Omni Series B, and Omni Series C radios had a full complement of accessories to go along with them. Ten-Tec was an early player with a solid-state linear amplifier with the Ten-Tec Model 444 Hercules:



Ten-Tec Model 444 Hercules Linear Amplifier

Ten-Tec Documentation

That is faded picture of the Hercules but the best available that I have found so far. This amplifier provided 1,000 watts input on CW and 1,200 watts input on SSB for an estimated power output of 500 and 600 watts, respectively. Here is a second picture with another view of the radio but with the amplifier sitting atop its matching power supply:



Ten-Tec Model 444
Hercules Linear Amplifier
(sitting on top of matching
AC Power Supply)

Ten-Tec

There was also a Model 243 Omni Remote Analog VFO. The Remote VFO worked with all three series of the original Omni HF Transceivers. However, it was only available with an analog readout. When engaged, its frequency would show on the digital readout on the host transceiver (if a digital model). The Remote VFO is shown here:



Ten-Tec Model 243
Remote VFO.

Ten-Tec

Ten-Tec was quite focused on radios with CW as the primary mode. That perhaps did not sell products then and it likely would not do so today other than a very few true CW aficionados. (Try to find a rag chew QSO on CW on the bands, today.) What was perhaps unfortunate was that Ten-Tec tended to ignore selling the fine SSB performance present in all their radios. Their transmit audio and receiver bandwidth control were exemplary. And, in many cases it was ahead of their competition. If one adds that omission to the radio's humble appearance (mentioned earlier in this article) and that almost surely limited their sales!

Many of these early Omni radios, the Corsair and Corsair II models⁵, the Omni V, VI, and VI Plus⁵, the now discontinued Orion and Orion II, and onward to today's Omni VII and Omni VII Plus radios still grace many stations operated by serious ham radio operators. These operators run the gamut – from DX operators to those of us that just want to get on the air and talk to someone.

A special thanks to Bob, W9DYQ, for his proof reading and our discussions of vintage radio and a million other topics from BBQ to politics. Bob, and XYL, Deb, KAØPBV, live in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area.

I appreciate that you read my articles. I am always open to questions and comments at my email address, W9MXQ@TWC.com.

Notes:

¹ Reference <http://www.tectec.com> for Ten-Tec's complete line, including the current Omni VII Plus and other items. That site also includes links to documentation on earlier Ten-Tec radios.

² The reference here is to the Drake TR7, the Heathkit SB-104, the Swan SS Series, and the Ten-Tec radios in this article. At the time, there was only Icom, from Japan, who was in the market with an all-solid-state radio, the IC-701. I tried one of these at the time – in my opinion, it did not compete well with the other radios mentioned in this note!

³ The specifications given – unless otherwise noted – come from the Ten-Tec Operating Manual for the mentioned radio.

⁴ That friend was Floyd (Pappy) Sakemiller, W9PRV. Pappy is now a SK. He and his XYL, Ruth, were close family friends in those days.

⁵ The Corsair, Corsair II, Omni V, VI, and VI Plus were the subject of a previous article.

© **W9MXQ**

GARS Membership

New Members in April

Charles Hardt (WD9IAR)
 Bryan Morrow (KQ4QAI)
 Joshua North (W4JJN)
 Jim O'Brien (KQ4RNA)

New Members: 4

**Total Members as of
 May 1, 2024
 348**

Join GARS members for our:

- weekly lunch bunch at 11:30 AM most Fridays
- weekly breakfast gathering at 8:00 AM most Saturdays



Both weekly gatherings are held at the [Vintage Home Kitchen](#) at:

[555 Progress Center Ave
 Lawrenceville, GA 30043](#)

Birthdays in May

Vincent Bazain (KA4WAY)
 Bill Bentley (KJ4MXM)
 Caryn Brant
 Maggie Colley (KM4PTW)
 Matt Collins (N4KRI)
 Tom Crowley (KT4XN)
 Steve Garrison (N4TTY)
 Bob Gerzoff (WK2Y)
 David Griscavage (W3GZS)
 Bill Hawkins (WR1TR)
 Harry Heath (KO4FGK)
 Sachiko Londono
 Frederick Love (KK4VEP)
 David Mattison (KD4PCK)
 Dallas Mellichamp (N4DDM)
 Anita Morris (KG4AJX)
 Douglas Papciak (KI4VDU)
 Robert Prisant (KN4GZG)
 Ade Shamblin (KJ4CUY)
 Larry Thill (W4LJT)

GARS MEMBERSHIP

Your current GARS membership status is shown in the monthly newsletter e-mail towards the bottom of the message. To become a GARS member, or to renew your GARS membership, please visit our website – <http://www.gars.org>. To make changes to your GARS membership (moved, new e-mail address, new phone number, etc.), please contact the Membership Chair at [Email](mailto:membership@gars.org) (<https://gars.org/contact/>) with any changes to your Membership information.

Membership Chair: Karen Albritton, KI4HPP

Committee Members: Dave Bruse, W4DTR

ARRL MEMBERSHIP

To update your ARRL membership information, please visit their website - <http://www.arrl.org>.

MAINTAIN YOUR LICENSE

You can update your Amateur Radio license information with the FCC at their website for free - <https://www.fcc.gov/wireless/universal-licensing-system>. License renewal is subject to the \$35 FCC fee.



Donating to GARS

Your GARS donation can be used for a certain purpose by donating to one of these funds:

- GARS SK Memorial Fund for Education
- (to remember and honor Silent Keys);
- GARS Scholarship Fund (Administered by the ARRL for awarding scholarships);
- GARS General Fund (any club purpose).

GARS has joined these rewards programs (a portion of every purchase you make through these merchants may be donated to GARS):

- Kroger Community Rewards program.

For more information on how to sign up for these rewards programs, or to donate to GARS, visit

<http://gars.org/gars/donations-to-the-club>

GARS on Social Media



Discord Request:

<http://gars.org/discord>



Groups.io:

<http://gars.org/groups.io>



Visit GARS on Facebook:

<http://gars.org/facebook>



Follow GARS on Twitter:

<http://gars.org/twitter>



Join GARS on YouTube:

<http://gars.org/youtube>

GARS Mail Address:

GARS
P.O. Box 492531
Lawrenceville, GA 30049

Officers



Kevin Igarashi-Ball, President W4KIB



Alex Kowalchuk, Vice President AK4AM



Drew White, Secretary KQ4NUQ



Glen Wendt, Treasurer W3WWT



Kevin Scott, Program Manager K4GTR

Managers and Committee Chairs



Karen Albritton, Membership Chair KI4HPP



Dave Bruse, VE Team Leader W4DTR



David Adcock, Webmaster, Field Day Chair, TechFest Chair KA4KKF



Ralph Pickwick, Education Chair KJ4CNC



Earl Whatley, Apparel Manager AF4FG



Bob Hoffmann, GARzette Editor K4CQO



Eddie Foust, Repeater Chair WD4JEM



Mike Weathers, WAS / DXCC QSL Card Checker and Historian ND4V



Chuck McCord, Net Manager KK4TKJ



Steve Back, Technical / RFI Advisor WB2OGY



Dallas Mellichamp, Workshop Leader N4DDM



Sandy Jackson, Health and Wellbeing KJ4DRO



Kevin Igarashi-Ball, Multimedia Chair W4KIB



Dallas Mellichamp, Georgia QSO Chair N4DDM



Neil Derryberry, Elmer Manager WD4NET

Open Winter Field Day Chair

Directors and Trustees



Joe Biddle, AD4PZ



Kyle Albritton, W4KDA



John Davis, WB4QDX



Bill Cherepy, WB4WTN W4GR Trustee



GARS Meeting Minutes

GARS – MEETING 4/9/2024

There were 36 in-person attendees

President Kevin Igarashi-Ball (W4KIB) opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. and closed the meeting at approximately 8:35 p.m.

New hams and visitors: Kevin (W4KIB)

- First time visitors recognized.
- No new hams or upgrades recognized.
- Introductions all around. Many hams in the house.
- April birthdays listed, and congratulated.

Treasurer Report: Glen (W3WWT)

Membership: Kevin (W4KIB) Currently there are 351 members.

Education: Ralph (KJ4CNC)

- Just got permission to put up antennas at Lilburn Middle School.
- The McConnel club is closing down in about three weeks.
- HamCram went well.
- STEM night at Woodward Mill Elementary School went well.
- Ralph fielded some questions about ongoing and closing programs.
- General HamCram will be last week of July. General is more about operating and more fun.

VE Team: Bob (K4CQO)

- HamCram went well.
- The third Sunday session saw 16 techs and 2 generals licensed.
- This 21st there are already ten signed up
- If you are upgrading to Extra, the question pool changes in July.

ARES: Kevin (W4KIB)

- ARES will be at Little Mulberry on the 13th alongside of the QSO party for deployment day.

Programs: Kevin (K4GTR)

- May – SOTA – an event may follow
- June – Ice Cream Social in prep for Field Day
- July – Dallas will present on building simple antennas.
- August - Alex (AK4AM) will present on mobile installs.
- Check the Site for more information.

Apparel: Earl (AF4FG)

- Field day is coming up. T-shirts need to be ordered before next meeting.

Repeaters: David (KA4KKF)

- Saturday 20th we will need 4 or 5 people for a work party to clean out the shack. Start at about 1:00 and should be done before 5:00 p.m.

Georgia QSO Party: Dallas

- We have a spot at Little Mulberry Park for Sat the 13th of April.
- We will be starting at 2:00 and running as long as we can. We have the pavilion until 7:00. The park closes at sundown.
- Look for the cars with the antennas.

Other: Kevin (W4KIB)

- Ed (KK4NUY) The Scout Show will be at Gwinnett Fairgrounds. We will have a couple of radios set up for the Northeast Georgia Scouting Radio Club. GARS is invited to join in and show off gear. Saturday the 20th setup will start at 7:30 a.m. Early comers will likely not be charged an entry fee - \$5 to get in \$10 for a family.
- Earl (AF4FG) announced that the Dacula Memorial Day Parade is coming up My 27th. You will need a safety vest and an HT. If you don't have the gear, it will be provided. This is a fun event and worth doing.

Officer Special Election: Kevin (W4KIB)

A special election was held to replace Club Secretary Bill Hawkins (WR1TR). Drew White (KQ4NUQ) was nominated and elected by general acclamation.

Note from the former secretary: A hearty thank you to all involved in GARS leadership for your patience.

Program: STEM and Ham Radio with Tom Crowley (KT4XN)

Minutes prepared by club secretary Bill Hawkins (WR1TR).

Workshop Minutes - April 16, 2024

Number in Attendance: 13

Workshop Topic: Future GARS Projects and Events

Presenter: Various, Lead by Dallas N4DDM

Brief Summary: This Workshop became a planning meeting for Projects and Events.

David KA4KKF worked on Field Day Captains and gear. He discussed getting more FD items into the new GARS Trailer (Receive Antenna, Band Pass Filters, T/R Switches). Earl AF4FG discussed the Dacula Memorial Day Parade. Dallas N4DDM discussed the GA QSO Party and how to do better next time. Band Pass Filters made a huge difference. Thoughts for future projects; Receive only antennas, Stealth antennas, HF Loops, and End Feed Antenna Kits. We had 2 visitors one new ham and one future ham.

Elmers are always present at the GARS Workshops. Feel free to bring your questions to the Workshop and if your project is small enough to get to the meeting, let us know in advance via email so we can have tools, test gear, etc.



Events – GARS and others

ARRL CONTESTING INFO

From ARRL Contest Calendar

> For more information click the links <

2024 January

1 [Straight Key Night](#)

6 [Kid's Day](#)

6-7 [RTTY Roundup](#)

20-22 [January VHF Contest](#)

February

12-16 [School Club Roundup](#)

17-18 [International DX – CW](#)

March

2-3 [DX Contest – SSB](#)

April

21 [Rookie Roundup – Phone](#)

May

No planned contests

June

1-2 International Digital Contest

8-10 [June VHF](#)

15 [Kid's Day](#)

22-23 [Field Day](#)

July

13-14 [IARU HF World Championship](#)

August

3-4 [222 MHz and Up Dis Contest](#)

17-18 [10 GHz & Up – Round 1](#)

18 [Rookie Roundup – RTTY](#)

24-25 [EME - 2.3 GHz & Up](#)

September

14-16 [September VHF](#)

21-22 [EME - 2.3 GHz & Up – Rnd 2](#)

21-22 [10 GHz & Up – Wknd 1](#)

October

19-20 [EME - 50 to 1296 MHz](#)

21-25 [School Club Roundup](#)

November

2-4 [Nov. Sweepstakes - CW](#)

16-17 [EME - 50 to 1296 MHz](#)

16-18 [Nov. Sweepstakes - Phone](#)

December

6-8 [160 Meter](#)

14-15 [10 Meter](#)

22 [Rookie Roundup–CW](#)

For more information:

<http://www.arrl.org/contest-calendar>

HAMFEST CALENDAR

[Please confirm the status of a Hamfest before making plans to attend]

05/11/2024 - [Forsyth Georgia Tailgate & Swap Meet](#)

Location: Forsyth, GA

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Put on for Amateurs by Amateurs

Website: <http://barnesvillega.net>

05/25/2024 - [WormFest 2023](#)

Location: Pinellas Park, FL

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: The Glorious Society of The Wormhole

Website: <https://w4orm.org/>

06/01/2024 - [Atlanta Hamfest, ARRL Georgia Section Convention](#)

Location: Marietta, GA

Type: ARRL Convention

Sponsor: Atlanta Radio Club W4DOC & Kennehoochee Amateur Radio Club W4BTI

Website: <http://www.atlantahamfest.com>

06/22/2024 - [Dade City Lodge Pre-Field Day Hamfest](#)

Location: Dade City, FL

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Dade City Lodge/Green Swamp Chapter NAQCC

07/13/2024 - [Cullman Amateur Radio Club Hamfest](#)

Location: Cullman, AL

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Cullman Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://cullmanarc.com/hamfest/>

07/20/2024 - [51st Annual Cary Mid-Summer Swapfest](#)

Location: Cary, NC

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Cary Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://caryarc.org>

07/26/2024 - 07/27/2024 [Milton Ham Fest](#)

Location: Milton, FL

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Milton Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://miltonarc.org>

08/17/2024 - 08/18/2024 Huntsville Hamfest, ARRL SE Div. Conv.

Location: Huntsville, AL

Type: ARRL Convention

Sponsor: Huntsville Hamfest, Inc.

Website: <http://hamfest.org>

09/21/2024 - [Gadsden Hamfest](#)

Location: Gadsden, AL

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Gadsden Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://Gadsdenhamfest.com>

For more information: www.arrl.org/hamfests-and-conventions-calendar

When searching by division, remember some states adjacent to GA are in different divisions: Southeastern: GA, AL, FL Delta: TN Roanoke: NC, SC



GARS Events Calendar for 2024		GARS Recurring Calendar
TechFest Winter Field Day Spring Technician HamCram Dog Show Fundraiser Georgia QSO Party North metro area Fox Hunt Summer General HamCram Memorial Day Parade ARC/KARC Hamfest Field Day JOTA Fall Technician HamCram Stone Mt. Hamfest Holiday Party	January 13 2024 January 27-28 2024 March 23-24, 2024 March 5-6 2024 April 13-14 2024 April 2024 April 2024 May 27 2024 June 1 2024 June 22-23 2024 October 2024 September 2024 November 2-3 2024 December 7 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7 pm (except December) Monthly Club Meeting 690 Airport Rd, Lawrenceville, GA 30046 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7 pm (except December) Monthly Workshop 690 Airport Rd, Lawrenceville, GA 30046 3rd Sunday of the Month at 2 pm GARS Ham Exam Session 690 Airport Rd Lawrenceville, GA 30046 Every Monday at 7:30 pm: GARS Want, Swap, Sell, and Information Net on the GARS 147.075 MHz repeater Every Monday at 8:30 pm: ARES Training on the GARS 147.075 MHz repeater Every Friday at 11:30 am, GARS Lunch at The 5 Spot Every Saturday at 8:00 am GARS Breakfast at The 5 Spot

GARS Calendar for May 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3 11:30 AM Lunch at Home Kitchen 8:30 - 9:30 PM 70CM Talk Net	4 8:00 AM Breakfast at Home Kitchen
5	6 7:30 – 8:00 PM 2M Net	7 7:00 PM Exec Meeting	8	9	10 11:30 AM Lunch at Home Kitchen 8:30 - 9:30 PM 70CM Talk Net	11 8:00 AM Breakfast at Home Kitchen
12	13 7:30 – 8:00 PM 2M Net	14 7:00 PM Meeting EAA 690 Hangar	15	16	17 11:30 AM Lunch at Home Kitchen 8:30 - 9:30 PM 70CM Talk Net	18 8:00 AM Breakfast at Home Kitchen
19 2:00 PM GARS Ham Radio Exams, EAA 690 Hangar	20 7:30 – 8:00 PM 2M Net	21 7:00 PM Workshop Meeting EAA 690 Hangar	22	23	24 11:30 AM Lunch at Home Kitchen 8:30 - 9:30 PM 70CM Talk Net	25 8:00 AM Breakfast at Home Kitchen
26	27 7:30 – 8:00 PM 2M Net	28	29	30	31 11:30 AM Lunch at Home Kitchen 8:30 - 9:30 PM 70CM Talk Net	



Local Ham Radio Exams & Meetings

GARS Ham Radio Exams

GARS Exam Sessions are held the 3rd Sunday of the month

Preregistration is **REQUIRED**

Doors open at 1:45pm, exams start promptly by 2:00pm

For more information and to preregister, please visit <https://gars.org/exams/>

GARS VE-Team

VEC: W5YI-VEC

EAA 690 Hangar

690 Airport Rd

Lawrenceville, GA 30046

GARS VE Team Leaders

E-mail: exams@gars.org.



April 2024 Results

The GARS VE Team exam session results from April 21st.

2 New Technicians

- Adolfo A Guzman KQ4RMQ
- Jim O'Brien KQ4RNA

4 Upgrade to General

- DOUG E HARRISON KQ4JUO
- HOON JAE JUNG KQ4PZW
- BRYAN S MORROW KQ4QAI
- Stephen P Russell (passed both Tech & General) KQ4RNC

3 Upgrade to Extra

- JAMES W BARRETT KD4PDY
- TIM B BRADY KJ4FHZ
- RANDALL W TONNE KN4DY

Special thanks to the Volunteer Examiners who made this exam session possible:

W4DTR – Dave (CVE)

K4CQO – Bob (CVE)

KK4TKJ – Chuck (CVE)

AB4QQ – Russell

KM4SWL – Richard

W4SHT – Lynn

AF4FG – Marvin

NV4Q – Bill

Thanks & 73,

Dave Bruse, W4DTR (CVE)

GARS Exam Team Leader

Local Ham Radio Exams

In order to find an exam session near you, please visit

http://www.arrl.org/exam_sessions/.

Contact the information in the listing for further information.



Local Ham Radio Meetings

In order to find a local Ham Radio Club meeting near you, please visit

<http://www.arrl.org/find-a-club>.

Contact the club for meeting information.



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